(iv) Promotional offer of Dolphin Jeewan Saathi from 26.12.2006 to 25.1.2007 and further extended to 25.3.2007.

(v) Benefit in booking of extended MTNL landline from 1.1.2007 for 90 days.

MTNL Mumbai

(i) Monthly rental of One India Plan was reduced from Rs. 299/- to Rs. 180/- *w.e.f.* 1.11.2006.

(ii) Tariff from landline and WLL to its own network at Mumbai has been changed to Rs. 1.20/180 sec.

(iii) Tariff from landline/WLL to MTNL Delhi landline/WLL has been reduced from Rs. 1.20/30 sec. to Rs. 1.20/180 sec.

(iv) STD tariff of landline/WLL has been reduced from Rs. 2.40/min to Rs. 2.00/min.

(v) Calls within CDMA 2000 IX system has been reduced to Rs. 0.10/min.

(vi) Only incoming plan for landline with Rs. 150/- rent per months has been made regular.

(vii) With effect from 19.10.2006, customer of 2000 IX network were permitted unlimited use of internet on payment of Rs. 299/-.

(viii) Unlimited SMS on MTNL mobile network with a monthly rent of Rs. 30/month on 20.10.2006.

(b) The impact has been very positive and encouraging. Consequently, there is heavy demand for Broadband connection and mobile connections.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Stagnation of rural tele-density

1046. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural telephony is not catching up as targeted, resulting in rural tele-density stagnating around 2 per cent against a projected 25 per cent by 2010;

(b) whether adequte funds, accrue from Universal Service Obligation levy for rural telephony expansion;

(c) whether it is a fact that private telecom operators are defaulting on rural telephony sector obligations; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure compliance by private telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. However, as per NTP-1999 (New Telecome Policy-1999), the target fixed for rural tele-density is 4% by 2010.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Agreement were signed with M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and M/s Reliance Info Limited (RIL) in September, 2004 to provide 46,253 Rural Community Phone (RCP) (BSNL: 24,822, RIL: 21,431) in the country in villages with population exceeding 2,000 and without a public phone. Out of these, 36,338 RCPs (BSNL; 20,807, RIL: 15,531) have been provided till January, 2007. The remaining RCPs are likely to be provided by September, 2007.

Agreement were signed with M/s BSNL, M/s.RIL and M/s Tata Tele. Service (TTL) and M/s TTL (MH) in March, 2005 for provision of individual Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) to be installed during 1-4-2005 to 31-3-2007. These RDELs are to be installed in the eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country, where cost of providing telephone connection is more than the revenue earned. The share of SDCAs among these companies is 1267,203,172,43 respectively. About 17,12,530 RDELs have been provided [M/s BSNL 6,08,039 M/s RIL 4,64,276 M/s TTL, 5,00,023 M/s TTL(MH) 1,40,192] till January, 2007.

Under Unified Access Service License (UASL), there is no mandatory obligation for providing rural telephony.

Making post offices technology savvy

1047. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: